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Dated: October 5, 2004

Signature: _____

(Scott S. Servilla)

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-2153 CIP DIV
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Yuan et al.

Application No. 10/091,708

Filed: March 6, 2002

For: DEVICE FOR SECURING SPINAL RODS

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: Group Art Unit: 3732
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: Examiner: M. B. Priddy
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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to initiation of the prosecution of the above-identified pending U.S. patent application, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.